

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

\*\*\*\*\*news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## INTERIOR ISSUES "PREVIEW" OF NATIONAL FISHERIES CENTER

The importance of the new National Fisheries Center and Aquarium in Washington, D. C., to scientific research is highlighted in a publication just released by the Department of the Interior.

The booklet provides a preview of the research and education Center to be located on Hains Point in East Potomac Park. Completion of the facility is planned for 1967.

Construction of the \$10 million Fisheries Center on a self-supporting basis was authorized by Congress in 1962. Funds for construction and operation are to be repaid from admission fees.

The Center will be administered by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. It will contain research laboratories for the Bureau, other Federal Government agencies, and for scientists of other countries.

Both unusual and commonplace aquatic animals from all parts of the world will be studied in near-natural habitats at the Center. The studies will include research into genetics, reproduction, nutrition, fish diseases, antibiotics produced by marine animals, and experimental ecology.

William Hagen, acting director of the Center, said much of the research will be related to human biology and medicine.

An estimated 3 million persons are expected to visit the Center annually. The new facility is expected to be of special interest to student groups, who will be admitted without charge.

The entire spectrum of water habitat and its variety of aquatic animals will be presented. These will range from the inhabitants of a fresh-water stream, fed by a mountain lake, to the dark abyss of the ocean.

The educational features also will include exhibits to provide information for all ages into aspects of oceanography and the fishery sciences.

Single copies of the new publication, "A Preview of the National Fisheries Center and Aquarium," may be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 20240.

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